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THE SHINY COWBIRD (MOLOTHRUS BONARIENSIS) REACHES ALABAMA

John T. Fulton

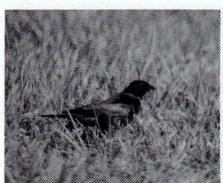




Figure 1. Male (left) and female Shiny Cowbird at Fort Morgan, 5 May 1990. (Photos by Bill Summerour)

Atherton and Brooks (1989), Ogden (1989), and Paul (1987) have-documented the recent arrival of the Shiny (Glossy) Cowbird in Florida. According to Raffaele (1983), this South American species expanded northward through the Lesser Antilles and by 1955 had reached Puerto Rico. Nest parasitism by this cowbird has contributed to the decline of Puerto Rico's Yellow-headed Blackbird (Agelaius xanthomus) and other island endemics. The Shiny Cowbird continued to expand northward, reaching southern Florida in 1985 (Smith and Sprunt, 1987) and Jacksonville, in northern Florida, in 1988 (Atherton and Brooks, 1989). The species was first observed in Alabama by the author on 25 April 1990. Because the Shiny Cowbird is a new species for the state, the details of the record are presented in this paper.

From 5:40 PM to 6 PM on 25 April 1990, a male all black cowbird was observed by the author through the tinted glass of the office window on a feeder tray at the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge office west of Gulf Shores. This unfamiliar bird had a very dark eye without any red which eliminated from consideration the males of several species including the two it most closely resembled – Brewer's Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus) and Bronzed Cowbird (Molothrus aeneus). The bird was in a mixed flock containing Common Grackles (Quiscalus quiscula), several male and female Red-winged Blackbirds (Agelaius phoeniceus),

and Brown-headed Cowbirds (Molothrus ater). This association with the mixed blackbird flock allowed close comparisons with the three other species present.

The Shiny Cowbird appeared intermediate in body and bill size between the Brown-headed Cowbirds and the Red-winged Blackbirds. As seen through the tinted glass, the wings were black with a dull greenish-black sheen. The rest of the body was glossy black with a shiny blue iridescence. In better light on subsequent days the body appeared to have a bluish-purple iridescence. The slightly notched tail flared a little towards the tip, making it wider as well as longer than the tail of the Brown-headed Cowbird. Also, when the Shiny Cowbird fluffed up the feathers on its nape, it looked quite robust compared to the Brown-headed Cowbird. When it was not fluffed out, it appeared sleek and trim, even more streamlined than a half-sized, dark-eyed grackle. The tail was not at all keeled, and was proportionally shorter than a grackle's, or even a blackbird's tail.

While waiting turns on the feeder placed near the office window, most of the birds fed on the lawn north of the Refuge office. The male Shiny Cowbird came to the feeder a half dozen times for three to 15 seconds each visit, but flushed at any discernible movement inside the window. After it flushed the third time, I pulled out my North American field guides and found that the Shiny Cowbird was not in any of them. It is, however, well described in Raffaele's guide (1983) and by Smith and Sprunt (1987).

Before consulting these references, I had requested assistance from Greg Jackson and Bill Milmore in identifying the bird. The Shiny Cowbird sighting was also verified by other observers. At 7 AM, 26 April 1990, Gene Fleming and Paul Blevins observed four males and two females near the museum at Fort Morgan, Alabama. Bob Duncan, Bill Milmore and Owen Fang also confirmed the sighting. Six males and four females were observed by the author at Fort Morgan on Saturday, 28 April. The male at the office was last seen on 30 April. At the Fort, Bob Reid reported two males and the four females still present on 9 May.

Literature Cited

Atherton, Lyn S. and Brooks H. 1989. Florida Region [Autumn 1988]. Am. Birds 43:93.

Ogden, John C. 1989. Florida Region [Winter 1988 – 1989]. *Am. Birds* 43:306.

Paul, Richard T. 1987. Florida Region [Summer 1987]. Am. Birds 41:1428.

Raffaele, Herbert A. 1983. A Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Fondo Educativo Interamericano p. 171.

Smith, P. William, and Alexander Sprunt IV. 1987. The Shiny Cowbird Reaches the United States. Am. Birds 41:370-371.

John T. Fulton – Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, 4th floor, Federal Building, Wright Square, Savannah, GA 31412.

ALABAMA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Greg D. Jackson

This is the first report of the new Alabama Bird Records Committee. The committee was reorganized in late 1987, and soon began the formal evaluation of Alabama rare bird reports that had not been considered during the original committee meetings held in 1983. Forty-nine documented records were appraised in 1988 and 1989. The committee has now considered all reports not previously evaluated for which we have documentation, though there are several sightings that have been in print since 1983 for which we have no detailed written information.

The committee consists of a Secretary and six members, all of whom vote on each record. Members remain on the committee for three to four years, and at least two members are replaced each year. Records are submitted by birders to the Secretary, who then sends them by mail in a "round robin" fashion to each member. If a decision is not definitely reached during that circulation, the process is repeated. If there is still no unequivocal decision, then the record is considered at a formal meeting. Such a meeting occurred in Birming ham on 10 Feb 1990, and of the 49 circulated reports, only three had to be brought forth for discussion and resolution at that time.

The initial evaluation of submitted reports is performed by each committee member without the knowledge of the opinions of the other members, and this judgement is done as objectively and impartially as possible. A record is accepted by the committee if it finally receives no more than one negative vote. This helps ensure that few poorly docu-

mented and/or questionable records will be accepted. However, it is possible that there will occasionally be a valid sighting that is not approved, because at least six members are not convinced beyond a reasonable doubt. Observers who submit reports to the committee should understand this process; a "not accept" vote should not be construed as a personal insult or condemnation of their skills. We are attempting to establish a "clean" set of records for the state; in order to achieve this goal, reports of rarities must be fully documented and then evaluated in a critical manner. This process is required of sightings by all birders, regardless of experience and knowledge.

During 1988 and 1989, the list of species requiring review was limited to only those birds that had three or fewer accepted records as of 1983. Because the backlog of unevaluated reports has now been cleared, at the February meeting the committee voted to expand the Review List to include many other rare species. This list was published in the March 1990 issue of *The Yellowhammer*, and the revision affects all observations occurring after 1 Jan 1990. For sightings of any of these birds to be accepted in the state records, complete written details (and photographs when available) must be submitted to the current Secretary (Robert A. Duncan, 614 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, FL 32561).

After the committee meetings in 1983, the "official" state list stood at 370 species. As a result of the action of the present committee, this "official" list is now 383 species. Of these, two are extinct (Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet) and two have been extirpated (Ivorybilled Woodpecker and Common Raven). An additional 12 species are "hypothetical," meaning that there are no acceptable specimens or photographs from the state, and the species has not been satisfactorily identified by several experienced observers. To be placed on this "hypothetical" list, convincing written documentation must be presented and approved by the committee.

Tables 1 and 2 show the results of the last two years of committee work. Table 3 lists the reports in print in various publications that were not considered by the original 1983 committee, and for which the present committee has been unable to obtain written details. These undocumented sightings are considered "not accepted," though if adequate details are submitted in the future they will be evaluated.



TABLE 1. 1988 RECORDS COMMITTEE EVALUATIONS

Record No.	Species	Date	County	Photo/1. Spec.	Decision ²	AL ^{3.} Status
88-1	N. Fulmar	11/9/86	Baldwin		NI	
88-2	Ferruginous Hawk	2/24/88	Colbert		A	2H
88-3	Ross' Goose	2/22-23/88	Colbert	P	A	2
88-4	Cassin's Finch	12/24/88	Jefferson		NI	
88-5	Ferruginous Hawk	1/3-4/88	Baldwin		w	
88-6	Aud. Shearwater	1/3/87	Baldwin		A	2
88-7	West./Cl. Grebe	5/21/85	Limestone		NI	
88-8	Pacific Loon	1/2/88	Baldwin		A	5
88-9	Flammulated Owl	11/53	Shelby	S	NO	
88-10	Cave Swallow	4/14/87	Mobile		A	2H
88-11	Cave Swallow	4/28/87	Baldwin	S	A	5
88-12	Lesser Bl-b. Gull	1/31/88	Marshall		A	2
88-13	Lesser Bl-b. Gull	3/9-16/85	Marshall	P	A	1
88-14	Prairie Falcon	2/16/85-1/90	Marshall		A	1
88-15	Couch's Kingbird	10/4/88	Baldwin	P	A	1
88-16	Brant	11/16/85-1/86	Baldwin		A	4
88-17	Cinnamon Teal	10/19/85	Morgan	P	A	3

- 1. P photograph, S specimen
- 2. A accepted, NI not accepted (identification), NO not accepted (origin),
- 3. W withdrawn by observer
 Ranking of sighting in the accepted records (1 = first, 2 = second, etc.)
 H hypothetical list (as of this record)

TABLE 2. 1989 RECORDS COMMITTEE EVALUATIONS

Record Species	Date	County	Photo/1.	Decision ² .	AL3.
No.			Spec.		Status
89-1 Pacific Loon	2/4/85	Baldwin		A	3
89-2 Pacific Loon	4/24/88	Mobile		A	6
89-3 Pacific Loon	1/1/86	Baldwin		A	4
89-4 Lesser Nighthawk	4/11/85	Baldwin		A	3
89-5 Cave Swallow	4/14/87	Baldwin		A	2H
89-6 Trop/Couch's Kingbd.	9/27/87	Baldwin		A	2H
89-7 Ferruginous Hawk	12/29/85, 1/7/86	Baldwin		A	1H
89-8 Little Gull	1/24/87	Lauderdale		A	1H
89-9 Roseate Tern	11/24/83	Baldwin		NI	
89-10 Cave Swallow	4/25-26/87	Mobile		NI	
89-11 Black-ch. Humming.	1/15/84-4/84	Mobile	P	A	1
89-12 Black-ch. Humming.	4/8/84	Baldwin		NI	
89-13 Lesser Nighthawk	4/26/82	Baldwin		A	1 H
89-14 Sulphur-b. Flycatcher	9/27/88-10/3/88	Baldwin	P	A	2
89-15 Olivaceous Cormoran	t10/23/88	Baldwin		A	1

(TABLE 2. Continued)

Record Species No.	Date	County	Photo/1. Spec.	Decision ² .	AL ^{3.} Status
9-16 N. Wheatear	10/2-3/88	Baldwin	P	A	1
89-17 Fork-tailed Flycat	cher4/24/88	Baldwin		A	1H
89-18 Black-sh. Kite	12/27/88	Mobile		A	3
89-19 Pacific Loon	2/24/89	Baldwin		NI	
89-20 Sage Thrasher	10/15/86 +	Baldwin	P	A	3
89-21 Roseate Spoonbill	7/20-30/88	Mobile	P	A	5
89-22 Sharp-t. Sandpiper	4/30/88-5/1/88	Colbert	P	A	1
89-23 Lesser Nighthawk		Baldwin		A	2
89-24 Ross' Goose	2/17/89-4/2/89	Barbour	P	A	3
89-25 Bk-s Kite	1/15/89	Conecuh		A	4
89-26 Cave Swallow	4/17/87	Baldwin		A	4
89-27 Sooty Shearwater	3/4/89	Baldwin		A	4
89-28 Cave Swallow	4/22/89	Baldwin		A	6
89-29 Cave Swallow	4/22/84	Baldwin		A	1H
89-30 Black-ch. Hummir	ng. 10/9/88	Mobile		NI	
89-31 Rock Wren	2/4/84-4/84	Mobile	P	A	3
89-32 Roseate Spoonbill	8/12/89	Mobile		A	6

- 1. P photograph
- 2. A accepted, NI not accepted (identification)
- 3. Ranking of sighting in the accepted records (1 = first, 2 = second, etc.) H-hypothetical list (as of this record)

TABLE 3. RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED DUE TO ABSENCE OF DOCUMENTATION

Species	Date	County
Cory's Shearwater	11/22/86	Baldwin
Manx Shearwater	12/19/83	Baldwin
Audubon's Shearwater	12/19/83	Baldwin
Roseate Spoonbill	9/19-26/87	Greene
Black-shouldered Kite	10/13/83	Mobile
Ferruginous Hawk	12/15/84	Mobile
Ferruginous Hawk	12/29/84	Baldwin
Mountain Plover	4/6/84	Mobile
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/8/83	Baldwin
Iceland Gull	4/16/84	Mobile
Lesser Black-backed Gull	12/9/83	Mobile
Black-chinned Hummingbird	4/25/85	Mobile

Greg D. Jackson (Immediate Past Secretary, Alabama Bird Records Committee) 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244.

WINTER AERIAL COUNTS OF BIRDS ON THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

Julian L. Dusi

Since 1981 I have taken part in an annual winter eagle count that has followed the Chattahoochee River from Cottonton, Russell Co., to the Florida state line, Houston Co., a distance of about 135 km. It was done each year early in January, usually during the first week. The main objective of the count was to count the eagles that were present. It also presented the opportunity to count other raptors and wading birds.

Methods

The counts were made from several models of fixed-wing aircraft: Cessna 150, 152, 172, or Piper Warrior. I flew from the Auburn or Tuskegee airports to Cottonton, then followed the Chattahoochee River south to the Florida state line. I flew at an altitude of about 160 m above ground level, and at a speed of about 160 to 180 km/hr., depending on which aircraft I used. The flight to the Florida state line required about 40 min. each way. While flying, I could see both banks of the river and the water and sandbars, except at the widest parts of Lake Eufaula. All species could be seen easily and counted, while flying down and back. The duplication in counting was corrected for by taking the largest number of each species seen in each block.

To facilitate recording for the eagle count, the route was subdivided into seven 10-minute blocks of latitude. Block 1 was from 32 deg. 10 min. to 32 deg. 0 min.; Block 2 was from 32 deg. 0 min. to 31 deg. 50 min.; Block 3 was from 31 deg. 50 min. to 31 deg. 40 min.; Block 4 was from 31 deg. 40 min. to 31 deg. 30 min.; Block 5 was from 31 deg. 30 min to 31 deg. 20 min.; Block 6 was from 31 deg. 20 min. to 30 deg. 10 min.; and Block 7 was from 31 deg. 10 min. to 31 deg. 0 min.

Results

The results of the counts are presented in Table 1, page eight.

TABLE 1. WINTER AERIAL COUNT OF BIRDS ON THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Great Blue Heron	22	15	50	31	3	5	23	33	11
Great Egret	8	11	250	156	28	4	168	119	41
Double-crested Cormorant	0	0	12	75	0	0	14	1	6
Ring-billed Gull	85	606	0	570	569	239	910	1140	1423
Bonaparte's Gull	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey Vulture	16	8	60	20	3	4	36	7	16
Black Vulture	16	1	30	4	0	3	0	0	5
Red-tailed Hawk	1	6	1	6	0	1	1	3	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Bald Eagle	3	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	1
American Crow	16	75	30	30	20	0	0	4	20
American Kestrel	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Harrier	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Discussion

Table 1 shows total numbers but not the distribution of the birds in the blocks as they were recorded. Most of the wading birds were recorded in blocks 1-4. Great Egrets (Casmerodius albus) were concentrated in the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge (blocks 2 and 3) and below the Walter George Lake (Lake Eufaula) dam at Ft. Gaines in block 4. The Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias) was most abundant on the Eufaula Refuge in blocks 2 and 3. In general, the slow-moving shallow water of Lake George and the marshes of the Eufaula NWR were better habitat for the herons than the steep banks and faster, deeper water of the river below the Ft. Gaines Dam. Gulls were concentrated on Lake George (blocks 1-4), but were scattered all along the river. Raptors were distributed all along the lake and river. The fluctuations in numbers do not show definite trends for most species. However, the Ring-billed Gull population does appear to be on an upswing.

Acknowledgements

This study was supported in part by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University, Alabama.

Julian L. Dusi, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, Auburn University, Alabama 36849

ALABAMA CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1989-1990

Thomas A. Imhof

1. BIRMINGHAM, Dec 27, 30 observers, 78 party hours.

Com Loon, 2; Pied-b Grebe, 21; Horned Grebe, 11; Gt. Blue Heron, 20; Canada Goose, 41; Wood Duck, 37; Black Duck, 1; Mallard, 43; Shoveler, 1; Gadwall, 15; Am Wigeon, 3; Canvasback, 5; Ring-nk Duck, 43; L Scaup, 1; Goldeneye, 9; Sharp-sh Hawk, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-shld Hawk, 8; Red-tl Hawk, 21; Am Kestrel, 8; Merlin, 1; Bobwhite, 12; Am Coot, 8; Killdeer, 32; Com Snipe, 7; Rock Dove, 515; Mourning Dove, 381; Screech Owl, 2; Gt Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; B Kingfisher, 16; Red-hd Wdpkr, 39; Red-bel Wdpkr. 96; Y-b Sapsucker, 37; Downy Wdpkr, 35; Hairy Wdpkr, 6; Red-cockaded Wdpkr, 1; Flicker, 42; Pileated Wdpkr, 10; E Phoebe, 12; Blue Jay, 264; Am Crow, 500; Caro Chickadee, 139; Tufted Titmouse, 95; Red-br Nuthatch, 2; White-br Nuthatch, 22; Brown-hd Nutharch, 49; Brown Creeper, 9; Caro Wren 87; House Wren, 1; Winter Wren, 6; Golden-cr Kinglet, 67; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 148; E Bluebird, 62; Hermit Thrush, 15; Am Robin, 32,416; Catbird, 1; Mockingbird, 134; Brown Thrasher, 34; Am Pipit, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 3274; L Shrike, 5; Starling, 28,138; Solitary Vireo, 1; Orange-cr Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 121; Pine Warbler, 27; Cardinal, 189; E Towhee, 49; Chipping Sp, 20; Field sp, 115; Savannah Sp, 34; Fox Sp, 6; Song Sp, 250; Swamp Sp, 76; White-thr Sp 446; Dark-e Junco, 297; Red-wg Blkbd, 654; E Meadowlark, 113; Rusty Blkbd, 1035; Com Grackle, 30,178; B-h Cowbird, 1022; Purple Finch, 38, House Finch, 93; Pine Siskin, 36; Am Goldfinch, 313; House Sp. 104. Total species, 87; individuals, 102,241.

Compiler, THOMAS A. IMHOF, 1036 Pike Rd, Birmingham 35218.

2. DAUPHIN ISLAND, Dec 30, 14 observers, 45 party hours.

Com Loon, 18; Pied-b Grebe, 9; Horned Grebe, 15; Gannet, 3; White Pelican, 3; Brown Pelican, 425; D-c Cormorant, 4524; Gt. Blue Heron, 65; Gt Egret, 10; Snowy Egret, 14; Little Blue Heron, 3; Tri-col Heron, 5; Reddish Egret, 2; Green-wg Teal, 58; Mallard, 35; Pintail, 1; Gadwall, 2; Redhead, 10; Ringnk Duck, 2; L Scaup, 757; Goldeneye, 14; Bufflehead, 17; Hooded Merganser, 2; Red-br Merganser, 65; Osprey, 2; N. Harrier, 3; Sharp-sh Hawk, 1; Red-tl Hawk, 8; buteo sp, 3; Am Kestrel, 31; Peregrine Falcon, 2; hawk sp, 3; Clapper Rail, 9; Virgina Rail, 1; Black-b Plover, 40; Snowy Plover, 12; Seimpalmated Plover, 20; Piping Plover, 20; Killdeer, 145; Am Oystercatcher, 15; G Yellowlegs, 1; Willet, 123; Spotted Sandp, 3; Ruddy Turnstone, 15; Sanderling, 147; W Sandp, 72, Least Sandp, 5; Dunlin, 164; peep, 100; S-b Dowitcher, 232; Com Snipe, 5; Laughing Gull, 374; Bonaparte's Gull, 72; Ring-b Gull, 272; Herring Gull, 206; Caspian Tern, 15; Royal Tern, 158; Com Tern, 1; Forster's Tern, 51; Black Skimmer, 88; Rock Dove, 25; Mourning Dove, 163; Ground Dove, 1; Screech Owl, 4; Gt Horned Owl, 1; B Kingfisher, 17; Red-hd Wdpkr, 1; Red-bel Wdpkr. 10; Y-b Sapsucker, 4; Downy Wdpkr, 1; Flicker, 16; E Phoebe, 6; Tree Swallow, 84; Blue Jay, 100; Fish Crow, 5; Red-br Nuthatch, 3; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 10; Caro Wren 30; House Wren, 5; Sedge Wren, 1; Marsh Wren, 4; Golden-cr Kinglet, 1; Rubycr Kinglet, 5; E Bluebird, 58; Hermit Thrush, 5; Am Robin, 296; Catbird, 5; Mockingbird, 73; Brown Thrasher, 23; Cedar Waxwing, 25; L Shrike, 10; Starling, 95; Orange-cr Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 818; Pine Warbler, 5; Palm Warbler, 3; Yellowthroat, 1; Cardinal, 35; E Towhee, 20; Field sp, 7; Savannah Sp, 2; Sharp-tl Sp, 6; Seaside Sp, 15; Fox Sp, 4; Song Sp, 33; Swamp Sp, 128; White-thr Sp 140; sparrow, 4; Dark-e Junco, 24; Red-wg Blkbd, 500; E Meadowlark, 28; Boat-tl Grackle, 12; Com Grackle, 119; Am Goldfinch, 296; House Sp, 10 (No details: Oldsquaw, 1; Blk Scoter, 2; Surf Scoter, 5; White-wg Scoter, 6; Com Merganser, 5; Gt Blk-bk Gull, 1; Le Conte's Sp, 1.) Total species, 111; individuals, not reported.

Compiler, JOHN WINN, 4179 Lantern Ln, Mobile 36693.

3. EUFAULA NWR, Dec 19, 7 unlisted observers, about 25 party hours. Com Loon, 1; Pied-b Grebe, 4; D-c Cormorant, 260; Anhinga, 2; Gt. Blue Heron, 81; Gt Egret, 51; Blk-cr N Heron, 4; White Ibis, 7; White-fr Goose, 2; Snow Goose, 7; Canada Goose, 325; Wood Duck 39; Green-wg Teal, 240; Black Duck, 1; Mallard, 937; Pintail, 10; Blue-wg Teal, 6; Shoveler, 174; Gadwall, 515; Am Wigeon, 551; Canvasback, 4; Ring-nk Duck, 155; Bufflehead, 69; Hooded Merganser, 6; Red-th Merganser, 1; Ruddy Duck, 1; duck sp, 400; Black Vulture, 7; Turkey Vulture, 5; Osprey, 1; N. Harrier, 2; Sharp-sh Hawk, 2; Red-shld Hawk, 7; Red-tl Hawk, 1; Am Kestrel, 9; King Rail, 1; Sora, 1;

Com Moorhen, 12; Am Coot, 264; Killdeer, 21; G Yellowlegs, 1; Least Sandp, 3; Com Snipe, 10; Am Woodcock, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 7; Ring-b Gull, 500; Herring Gull, 1; Forster's Tern, 22; tern sp, 10; Rock Dove, 36; Mourning Dove, 118; Ground Dove, 4; Barn Owl, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Gt. Horned Owl, 2;

B Kingfisher, 12; Red-bel Wdpkr. 19; Y-b Sapsucker, 4; Downy Wdpkr, 9; Flicker, 22; Pileated Wdpkr, 4; E Phoebe, 5; Blue Jay, 31; Am Crow, 219; Caro Chickadee, 26; Tufted Titmouse, 16; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 7; Brown Creeper, 1; Caro Wren 19; House Wren, 1; Sedge Wren, 1; Marsh Wren, 2; Golden-cr Kinglet, 19; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 26; E Bluebird, 21; Hermit Thrush, 2; Am Robin, 350; Catbird, 1; Mockingbird, 12; Brown Thrasher, 3; Am Pipit, 20; Cedar Waxwing, 65; L Shrike, 8; Starling, 55; Solitary Vireo, 1; Orange-cr Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 900; Pine Warbler, 29; Palm Warbler, 6; Yellowthroat, 6; Cardinal, 28; E Towhee, 12; Chipping Sp, 64; Field Sp, 26; Vesper Sp, 5; Savannah Sp, 13; Fox Sp, 1; Song Sp, 200; Swamp Sp, 300; White-thr Sp, 22; White-cr Sp, 1; sparrow, 700; Red-wg Blkbd, 400; E Meadowlark, 31; Com Grackle, 50; B-h Cowbird, 6; blackbird sp, 500; Purple Finch, 3; House Finch, 2; Pine Siskin, 1; Am Goldfinch, 35; House Sp, 17 (No details: Com Tern, 1; Bewick's Wren, 2.)

Total species, 109; individuals, not reported.

Compiler, SAM PATE, Box 157, Fortson, GA 31808.

4. FORT MORGAN, January 1, 25 observers, 86 party hours.

Com Loon, 83; Pied-b Grebe, 6; Horned Grebe, 95; Gannet, 39; Brown Pelican, 564; D-c Cormorant, 15,000; Am Bittern, 4; Gt. Blue Heron, 66; Gt Egret, 6; Snowy Egret, 6; Tri-col Heron, 2; Green Heron, 2; Blk-cr N Heron, 1; White Ibis, 6; Wood Duck, 16; Green-wg Teal, 4; Mallard, 2; Gadwall, 12; Ring-nk Duck, 52; G Scaup, 80; L Scaup, 1792; scaup sp, 150; Black Scoter, 5; Surf Scoter, 18; Goldeneye, 1; Bufflehead, 317; Hooded Merganser, 36; Red-br Merganser, 135; duck sp, 296; N. Harrier, 10; Sharp-sh Hawk, 5; Cooper's Hawk, 4; accipiter sp, 1; Red-shld Hawk, 2; Red-tl Hawk, 12; buteo sp, 2; Am Kestrel, 32; Merlin, 1; Peregrine, 2; Clapper Rail, 11; King Rail, 1; Virginia Rail, 2; Sora, 5; Com Moorhen, 6; Am Coot, 28; Black-b Plover, 18; Snowy Plover, 4; Piping Plover, 3; Killdeer, 114; G Yellowlegs, 2; Willet, 66; Sanderling, 242; peep, 8; Dunlin, 1; Com Snipe, 7; Am Woodcock, 4; Laughing Gull, 252; Bonaparte's Gull, 550; Ring-b Gull, 694; Herring Gull, 217; gull sp, 124; Caspian Tern, 9; Royal Tern, 199; Com Tern, 2; Forster's Tern, 381; tern sp. 150; Black Skimmer, 16; Mourning Dove, 34; Ground Dove, 11; Screech Owl, 3; Gt Horned Owl, 5; Whippoor-will, 1; B Kingfisher, 19; Red-hd Woodpkr, 19; Red-bel Wdpkr. 70; Yb Sapsucker, 7 Downy Wdpkr, 10; Hairy Wdpkr, 1; Flicker, 26; Pileated Wdpkr, 5; E Phoebe, 25; Tree Swallow, 136; swallow sp, 1; Blue Jay, 175; Fish Crow, 3; Caro Chickadee, 5; Tufted Titmouse, 4; Red-br Nuthatch, 8; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 13; Caro Wren 87; House Wren, 31; Sedge Wren, 5; Marsh Wren, 10; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 111; B-g Gnatcatcher, 10; E Bluebird, 77; Hermit Thrush, 12; Am Robin, 15,725; Catbird, 109; Mockingbird, 251; Brown Thrasher, 52; Cedar Waxwing, 2516; L Shrike, 16; Starling, 82; Solitary Vireo, 1; Orange-cr Warbler, 3; Myrtle Warbler, 6484; Pine Warbler, 8; Palm Warbler, 36; Yellowthroat, 8; Cardinal, 53; E Towhee, 241; Chipping Sp, 61; Field Sp, 33; Savannah Sp, 166; Le Conte's sp, 2; Sharp-tl Sp, 1; Seaside Sp, 5; Fox Sp, 2; Song Sp, 83; Lincoln's Sp, 1; Swamp Sp, 229; White-thr Sp, 584; Harris Sp, 1; Darke Junco, 6; Red-wg Blkbd, 779; E Meadowlark, 63; Com Grackle, 933; B-h Cowbird, 300; blackbird sp, 1330; Purple Finch, 2; Am. Goldfinch, 1295; House Sp, 40 Count week: Reddish Egret, Snow Goose, White-wg Dove, Vesper Sp, Grasshopper Sp.

Total species, 124; individuals, not reported.

Compiler, JOHN T. FULTON, Bon Secour NWR, Box 1650, Gulf Shores, 36542 assisted by GENE FLEMING and WILHELMINA NONKES.

5. GULF SHORES, Dec 30, 58 observers, 164 party hours.

Red-thr Loon, 1; Com Loon, 376; Pied-b Grebe, 64; Horned Grebe, 29; Sooty Shearwater, 2; Gannet, 273; Brown Pelican, 650; D-c Cormorant, 1486; Anhinga, 1; Am Bittern, 1; Gt. Blue Heron, 228; Gt Egret, 6; Snowy Egret, 10; Little Blue Heron, 6; Tri-col Heron, 2; Green Heron, 3; Blk-cr N Heron, 2; Yell-cr N Heron, 1; White Ibis, 2; White-fronted Goose, 5; Snow Goose, 109;

Canada Goose, 40; Wood Duck, 33; Green-wg Teal, 52; Mallard, 63; Pintail, 26; Blue-wg Teal, 8; Shoveler, 15; Gadwall, 117; Am Wigeon, 70; Canvasback, 1; Redhead, 41; Ring-nk Duck, 587; G Scaup, 2; L Scaup, 695; scaup sp, 85; Black Scoter, 4; Surf Scoter, 9; White-wg Scoter, 1; scoter sp, 2; Goldeneye, 16; Bufflehead, 77; Hooded Merganser, 23; Com Merganser, 1; Red-br Merganser, 334; duck sp. 230; Turkey Vulture, 101; Osprey, 2; Black-shld Kite, 1; Bald Eagle, 1; N. Harrier, 36; Sharp-sh Hawk, 9; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shld Hawk, 4; Red-tl Hawk, 38; buteo sp, 1; Am Kestrel, 126; Merlin, 1; Peregrine Falcon, 5; hawk sp, 1; Bobwhite, 46; Clapper Rail, 24; King Rail, 5; Virginia Rail, 9; Sora, 10; Com Moorhen, 10; Am Coot, 148; Sandhill Crane, 31; Black-b Plover, 21; Snowy Plover, 7; Semipalmated Plover, 3; Piping Plover, 1; Killdeer, 2877; Am Oystercatcher, 1; G Yellowlegs, 9; L Yellowlegs, 2; Willet, 34; Spotted Sandp, 2; Ruddy Turnstone, 4; Sanderling, 168; W. Sandp, 47; Least Sandp, 17; Dunlin, 149; peep, 12; dowitcher sp, 16; Com Snipe, 108; Am Woodcock, 19; Laughing Gull, 1121; Bonaparte's Gull, 892; Ring-b Gull, 2709; Herring Gull, 429; Gt Black-b Gull, 1; Caspian Tern, 10; Royal Tern, 175; Sandwich Tern, 9; Com Tern, 5; Forster's Tern, 373; Black Skimmer, 11; Rock Dove, 109; Mourning Dove, 982; Ground Dove, 21; Barn Owl, 2; Screech Owl, 25; Gt Horned Owl, 3; Barred Owl, 2; caprimulgus sp, 1; B Kingfisher, 61; Red-hd Woodpkr, 9; Red-bel Wdpkr. 151; Y-b Sapsucker, 27 Downy Wdpkr, 48; Hairy Wdpkr, 6; Flicker, 77; Pileated Wdpkr, 23; E Phoebe, 51; Tree Swallow, 3495; Blue Jay, 457; Am Crow, 92; Fish Crow, 121; crow sp, 100; Caro Chickadee, 26; Tufted Titmouse, 35; Red-br Nuthatch, 14; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 78; Caro Wren, 130; House Wren, 44; Winter Wren, 1; Sedge Wren, 32; Marsh Wren, 27; Golden-cr Kinglet, 4; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 201; B-g Gnatcatcher, 31; E Bluebird, 94; Hermit Thrush, 21; Am Robin, 48,172; Catbird, 100; Mockingbird, 458; Brown Thrasher, 69; Am Pipit, 71; Cedar Waxwing, 662; L Shrike, 97; Starling, 1121; White-e Vireo, 1; Solitary Vireo, 16; Orange-cr Warbler, 10; Myrtle Warbler, 11,799; Yellow-thr Warbler, 2; Pine Warbler, 108; Palm Warbler, 46; Ovenbird, 1; Yellowthroat, 21; Cardinal, 146; ETowhee, 186; Chipping Sp, 356; Field Sp, 114; Vesper Sp, 117; Savannah Sp, 591; Grasshopper Sp, 3; Henslow's Sp, 1; Le Conte's sp, 4; Sharp-tl Sp, 3; Seaside Sp, 21; Fox Sp, 1; Song Sp, 196; Swamp Sp, 532; White-thr Sp, 523; Dark-e Junco, 22; Red-wg Blkbd, 15,094; E Meadowlark, 803; Brewer's Blkbd, 5; Boat-tl Grackle, 346; Com Grackle, 1214; B-h Cowbird, 2616; blackbird sp, 1569; Purple Finch, 3; Pine Siskin, 15; Am Goldfinch, 298; House Sp 56. Count week: Audubon's Shearwater, Cattle Egret, Ross' Goose, jaeger sp. Total species, 170; individuals, 109,833.

Compiler, GREG D. JACKSON, 2220 Baneberry Dr., Birmingham 35244.

6. GUNTERSVILLE, Dec 26, 6 observers, 40 party hours.

Com Loon, 43; Pied-b Grebe, 1894; Horned Grebe, 1526; D-c Cormorant, 2400; Gt. Blue Heron, 231; Bl-cr N Heron, 4; Canada Goose, 354; Wood Duck, 61; Green-wg Teal, 15; Black Duck, 20; Mallard, 566; Pintail, 2; Shoveler, 129; Gadwall, 4124; Am Wigeon, 469; Canvasback, 51; Redhead, 22; Ring-nk Duck, 3493; G Scaup, 3; L Scaup, 5536; Oldsquaw, 1; Goldeneye, 1307; Bufflehead, 209; Hooded Merganser, 25; Com Merganser, 1; Red-br Merganser, 30; Ruddy Duck, 1959; Black Vulture, 80; Turkey Vulture, 3; Bald Eagle, 31; N. Harrier, 5; Sharp-sh Hawk, 3; Red-shld Hawk, 1; Red-tl Hawk, 36; Rough-lg Hawk, 1; Am Kestrel, 17; Bobwhite, 18; Am Coot, 21,055; Killdeer, 33; Com Snipe, 3; Am Woodcock, 3; Bonaparte's Gull, 1649; Ring-b Gull, 13,994; Herring Gull, 278; Gt Black-b Gull, 1; Forster's Tern, 2; Rock Dove, 118; Mourning Dove, 212; Screech Owl, 4; Gt Horned Owl, 2; Barred Owl, 2; B Kingfisher, 22; Red-hd Woodpkr, 7; Red-bel Wdpkr, 37; Y-b Sapsucker, 14; Downy Wdpkr, 26; Hairy Wdpkr, 8; Flicker, 21; Pileated Wdpkr, 7; E Phoebe, 1; Horned Lark, 12; Blue Jay, 214; Am Crow, 151; Caro Chickadee, 97; Tufted Titmouse, 85; White-br Nuthatch, 20; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 59; Brown Creeper, 6; Caro Wren, 60; Winter Wren, 11; Golden-cr Kinglet, 154; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 94; E Bluebird, 60; Hermit Thrush, 23; Am Robin, 2566; Mockingbird, 65; Brown Thrasher, 13; Am Pipit, 22; Cedar Waxwing, 392; L Shrike, 5; Starling, 2235; Myrtle Warbler, 459; Pine Warbler, 15; Palm Warbler, 1; Cardinal, 244; E Towhee, 64; Chipping Sp, 5; Field Sp, 41; Savannah Sp, 7; Fox Sp, 15; Song Sp, 171; Swamp Sp, 61; White-thr Sp, 299; Dark-e Junco, 409; Red-wg Blkbd, 4055; E Meadowlark, 177; Rusty Blkbd, 78; Com Grackle, 811; B-h Cowbird, 42; Purple Finch, 2; House Finch, 176; Pine Siskin,

47; Am Goldfinch, 263; Evening Grosbeak, 71; House Sp, 215. Total species, 105; individuals, 76,466. Compiler, MARK BROWN, 2013 Park St., S E, Decatur 35601.

7. MOBILE-TENSAW, Dec 16, 22 observers, 61.5 party hours.

Com Loon, 1; Pied-b Grebe, 27; Horned Grebe, 38; grebe sp, 5; White Pelican, 434; Brown Pelican, 4; D-c Cormorant, 203; Anhinga, 1; Am Bittern, 1; Gt. Blue Heron, 68; Gt Egret, 185; Snowy Egret, 346; Little Blue Heron, 97; Tri-col Heron, 69; Blk-cr N Heron, 14; Yell-cr N Heron, 1; White Ibis, 229; Wood Duck, 73; Green-wg Teal, 565; Mottled Duck, 4; Mallard, 44; Pintail, 40; Blue-wg Teal, 293; Shoveler, 201; Gadwall, 206; Am Wigeon, 10; Canvasback, 16; Redhead, 1; G Scaup, 109; L Scaup, 61; Bufflehead, 9; Hooded Merganser, 21; Red-br Merganser, 28; Ruddy Duck, 170; duck sp, 93; Black Vulture, 4; Turkey Vulture, 45; Osprey, 6; N. Harrier, 11; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shld Hawk, 2; Red-tl Hawk, 17; buteo sp, 1; Am Kestrel, 11; falcon sp, 1; Turkey, 1; Sora, 2; Com Moorhen, 1; Am Coot, 1947; Black-b Plover, 57; Killdeer, 417; Blk-nk Stilt, 3; Am Avocet, 40; G Yellowlegs, 315; L Yellowlegs, 10; yellowlegs sp, 2; Willet, 78; W. Sandp, 1272; Least Sandp, 133; Dunlin, 2456; peep, 3070; S-b Dowitcher, 2; dowitcher sp, 28; Com Snipe, 67; Am Woodcock, 1; Laughing Gull, 50; Bonaparte's Gull, 177; Ring-b Gull, 268; Herring Gull, 168; gull sp, 56; Caspian Tern, 12; Royal Tern, 54; Forster's Tern, 246; tern sp, 1; Rock Dove, 8; Mourning Dove, 128; Screech Owl, 3; B Kingfisher, 28; Red-hd Woodpkr, 2; Red-bel Wdpkr. 26; Y-b Sapsucker, 14 Downy Wdpkr, 2; Flicker, 9; Pileated Wdpkr, 5; E Phoebe, 23; Blue Jay, 60; Am Crow, 3; Fish Crow, 2; crow sp, 5; Caro Chickadee, 11; Tufted Titmouse, 19; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 1; Caro Wren, 12; House Wren, 8; Winter Wren, 1; Marsh Wren, 1; Golden-cr Kinglet, 1; Rubycr Kinglet, 65; B-g Gnatcatcher, 15; E Bluebird, 81; Hermit Thrush, 12; Am Robin, 1893; Catbird, 3: Mockingbird, 27; Brown Thrasher, 5; White-e Vireo, 1; Solitary Vireo, 6; Orange-cr Warbler, 6; Myrtle Warbler, 961; Yellow-thr Warbler, 1; Pine Warbler, 10; Yellowthroat, 5; warbler sp, 30; Cardinal, 20; E Towhee, 204; Chipping Sp, 185; Field Sp, 1; Vesper Sp, 3; Savannah Sp, 2; Grasshopper Sp, 1;Song Sp, 10; Swamp Sp, 19; White-thr Sp, 139; sparrow sp 35; Dark-e Junco, 31; Red-wg Blkbd, 254 E Meadowlark, 65; Brewer's Blkbd, 5; Boat-tl Grackle, 478; Com Grackle, 277; blackbird sp, 1100; Am Goldfinch, 70; House Finch, 2. Total species, 125; individuals, 21,435.

Compiler, ROGER CLAY, 306 N Bayview, Fairhope 36532.

8. MONTGOMERY, Dec 30, 13 observers, 42 party hours.

Pied-b Grebe, 6; D-c Cormorant, 234; Gt. Blue Heron, 38; Gt Egret, 21; Snow Goose, 1; Wood Duck, 21; Black Duck, 1; Mallard, 431; Blue-wg Teal, 3; Gadwall, 8; Am Wigeon, 4; Canvasback, 1; Ring-nk Duck, 15; Bufflehead, 1; Hooded Merganser, 7; Turkey Vulture, 11; N. Harrier, 7; Sharp-sh Hawk, 1; Red-shld Hawk, 6; Red-tl Hawk, 109; Am Kestrel, 24; Turkey, 20; Bobwhite, 23; Am Coot, 18; Killdeer, 145; G Yellowlegs, 3; Spotted Sandp, 1; Com Snipe, 17; Ringb Gull, 150; Rock Dove, 268; Ringed Turtle-Dove, 3; Mourning Dove, 436; Barn Owl, 3; Barred Owl, 6; B Kingfisher, 38; Red-hd Woodpkr, 26; Red-bel Wdpkr. 38; Y-b Sapsucker, 35 Downy Wdpkr, 26; Flicker, 86; Pileated Wdpkr, 8; E Phoebe, 18; Blue Jay, 229; Am Crow, 77; Fish Crow, 1; Caro Chickadee, 101; Tufted Titmouse, 49; Brown-hd Nuthatch, 12 Caro Wren, 111; House Wren, 3; Golden-cr Kinglet, 17; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 40; E Bluebird, 45; Am Robin, 2101; Catbird, 3; Mockingbird, 197; Brown Thrasher, 16; Am Pipit, 45; Cedar Waxwing, 316; L Shrike, 37; Starling, 9856; Solitary Vireo, 2; Orange-cr Warbler, 2; Myrtle Warbler, 412; Pine Warbler, 25; Cardinal, 190; E Towhee, 88; Chipping Sp, 220; Field Sp, 24; Vesper Sp, 38; Savannah Sp, 34; Fox Sp, 3; Song Sp, 145; Swamp Sp, 19; White-thr Sp, 273; sparrow sp, 20; Dark-e Junco, 153; Red-wg Blkbd, 4777; E Meadowlark, 146; Brewer's Blkbd, 28; Com Grackle, 6067; B-h Cowbird, 1132; blackbird sp, 5000; Purple Finch, 4; House Finch, 122; Am Goldfinch, 85; House Sp, 103. Count week: Red-br Nuthatch

Total species, 85; individuals, 34,686

Compiler, LAWRENCE GARDELLA, 350 Cloverdale Rd, Montgomery 36104.

9. TUSCALOOSA, Dec 26, 4 observers, 18 party hours No list available.

Total species, 74; individuals, not reported.

Compiler: JIM THOMPSON, 2920 Azalea Lane, Tuscaloosa 35465.

10. WATERLOO, Dec 16, 25 observers, 79 party hours.

Pied-b Grebe, 16; Horned Grebe, 27; D-c Cormorant, 14; Gt. Blue Heron, 204; Snow Goose, 1; Canada Goose, 1102; Wood Duck, 13; Green-wg Teal, 3; Black Duck, 49; Mallard, 906; Pintail, 5; Shoveler, 1 Gadwall, 194; Am Wigeon, 1; Canvasback, 4; Ring-nk Duck, 21; L Scaup, 21; Goldeneye, 81; Bufflehead, 60; Hooded Merganser, 388; Com Merganser, 1; Red-br Merganser, 5; Turkey Vulture, 9; Bald Eagle, 57; N. Harrier, 14; Sharp-sh Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Redshld Hawk, 5; Red-tl Hawk, 42; Am Kestrel, 13; Bobwhite, 29; Am Coot, 179; Killdeer, 110; Least Sandp, 3; Dunlin, 2; Com Snipe, 44; Am Woodcock, 1; Bonaparte's Gull, 488; Ring-b Gull, 1878; Herring Gull, 35; Forster's Tern, 2; Rock Dove, 152; Mourning Dove, 117; Screech Owl, 9; Gt Horned Owl, 5; Barred Owl, 5; B Kingfisher, 20; Red-hd Woodpkr, 2; Red-bel Wdpkr. 98; Y-b Sapsucker, 62 Downy Wdpkr, 74; Hairy Wdpkr, 12; Flicker, 93; Pileated Wdpkr, 26; E Phoebe, 10; Horned Lark, 247; Blue Jay, 214; Am Crow, 156; Caro Chickadee, 218; Tufted Titmouse, 95; Red-br Nuthatch, 4; White-br Nuthatch, 24; Brown Creeper, 28; Caro Wren, 74; House Wren, 2; Winter Wren, 19; Golden-cr Kinglet, 182; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 169; E Bluebird, 188; Hermit Thrush, 82; Am Robin, 2616; Mockingbird, 85; Brown Thrasher, 24; Am Pipit, 3; Cedar Waxwing, 883; L Shrike, 6; Starling, 244; Myrtle Warbler, 328; Pine Warbler, 10; Cardinal, 421; E Towhee, 95; Tree Sp, 2; Chipping Sp, 5; Field Sp, 436; Savannah Sp, 229; Le Conte's sp, 4; Fox Sp, 34; Song Sp, 395; Lincoln's Sp, 1; Swamp Sp, 76; White-thr Sp, 751; White-cr Sp, 87; Dark-e Junco, 937; Red-wg Blkbd, 762; E Meadowlark, 273; Rusty Blkbd, 4; Com Grackle, 119; B-h Cowbird, 89; Purple Finch, 117; House Finch, 1; Pine Siskin, 77; Am Goldfinch, 212; House sp, 91. Total species, 104; individuals, 17,839

Compilers, PAUL KITTLE, Route 15, Box 288, Florence 35633 and NED PIPER, 1302 Rush St, Tuscumbia 35674.

11. WHEELER NWR, Dec 16, 24 observers, 80 party hours.

Pied-b Grebe, 316; Horned Grebe, 1; D-c Cormorant, 23; Gt. Blue Heron, 332; Gt Egret, 2; Green Heron, 1; Blk-cr N Heron, 3; Snow Goose, 1700; Canada Goose, 14,658; Wood Duck, 156; Green-wg Teal, 219; Black Duck, 1065; Mallard, 10,811; Pintail, 639; Shoveler, 1655; Gadwall, 2338; Am Wigeon, 7672; Canvasback, 49; Ring-nk Duck, 570; L Scaup, 858; Goldeneye, 469; Bufflehead, 17; Hooded Merganser, 322; Red-br Merganser, 6; Ruddy Duck, 86; Bald Eagle, 8; N. Harrier, 14; Sharp-sh Hawk, 4; Cooper's Hawk, 1; Red-shld Hawk, 2; Red-tl Hawk, 50; Am Kestrel, 30; Bobwhite, 4; Am Coot, 12,000; Killdeer, ?; G. Yellowlegs, 19; Least Sandp, 31; Dunlin, 40; Com Snipe, 72; Bonaparte's Gull, 370; Ring-b Gull, 9463; Herring Gull, 13; Forster's Tern, 10; Rock Dove, 470; Mourning Dove, 709; Screech Owl, 20; Gt Horned Owl, 8; Black-chinned Hummingbird, 1; B Kingfisher, 24; Red-hd Woodpkr, 25; Red-bel Wdpkr. 125; Y-b Sapsucker, 93 Downy Wdpkr, 74; Hairy Wdpkr, 14; Flicker, 85; Pileated Wdpkr, 19; E Phoebe, 13; Horned Lark, 95; Blue Jay, 267; Am Crow, 1899; Caro Chickadee, 178; Tufted Titmouse, 69; Red-br Nuthatch, 3; White-br Nuthatch, 5; Brown Creeper, 9; Caro Wren, 118; Winter Wren, 18; Golden-cr Kinglet, 144; Ruby-cr Kinglet, 264; E Bluebird, 76; Hermit Thrush, 91; Am Robin, 2687; Mockingbird, 123; Brown Thrasher, 106; Am Pipit, 37; Cedar Waxwing, 585; L Shrike, 5; Starling, 7401; Orange-cr Warbler, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 286; Pine Warbler, 19; Cardinal, 565; E Towhee, 178; Chipping Sp, 5; Field Sp, 243; Savannah Sp, 4; Fox Sp, 10; Song Sp, 381; Swamp Sp, 244; White-thr Sp, 1602; White-cr Sp, 24; Dark-e Junco, 251; Lapland Longspur, 2; Red-wg Blkbd, 6585; E Meadowlark, 170; Rusty Blkbd, 145; Brewer's Blkbd, 4; Com Grackle, 5443; Bh Cowbird, 727; Purple Finch, 27; House Finch, 140; Am Goldfinch, 121 House sp, 481. Total species, 102; individuals, 99,639

Compilers, J. MILTON HARRIS, Dept Chemistry, UAH, Huntsville 35899.

TOTAL SPECIES, ALL COUNTS 194.

LIST OF OBSERVERS with initials of count in which each participated. Gussie Arnett, B, GS, Wh; Laura Bailey, GS; Raymond & Sara Bates, B; Charles Bennet, GS; Michael Beuerlein, Wa; Joel Black, Mg; Paul Blevins, FM, GS; Bill & Greta Bremser, FM, GS; Lela Ann Brewer, GS; Tom Brindley, Wh; Bernice Brown, FM, GS; Mark Brown, GS, Gu, Wh; Craig & Linda Brown, Wh; Walter Burch, Wa; Linda Buzzard, B, GS; Howard & Susan Chambers, GS; Roger Clay, FM, MT; Charles Cloutier, Mg; David Cole, T; Dwight Cooley, Gu; John Couchman, GS; Dick Crittenden, B; Gene Crutcher, B; Martha Dagg, B; Dan & Dana Drennan, E; Bob, Lucy & William Duncan, FM, GS; John Ehinger, Wh; Trip Etheridge, Mg; Owen Fang, GS; Harriett & John Findlay, Wh; Gene Fleming, FM, GS; Mary Floyd, FM, GS; Ann & Dan Forster, FM,GS; Paul Franklin, B, GS, Wh; Bill Friday, Wh; Danner & Venetia Friend, GS; John Fulton, FM, GS; Lawrence Gardella, Mg; Ben Garmon, GS; Jeff Garner, Wa; Peggy & Verdon Gibbs, FM; Philip Gidiere, Mg; JoAnn & William Gilliland, B; Sandra Gunn, FM; Tom Haggerty, Wa; Milton Harris, Gu, Wh; Charles Helmick, GS; Jeff Hill, Wa; Catherine Hodges, B; Jerry Hoffman, T; Dan Holliman, B; Howard Horne, GS, Wh; Marilyn Huey, B; John & Thomas Imhof, B; Greg Jackson, GS; Bettye James, B; Alice Johnston, GS; Jim and Lee Keeler, Mg; Charles Kennedy, Mg; Cutis Kingsbery, GS; Bette Kirkham, FM; Helen Kittinger, B, GS, Wh; Paul Kittle, Wa; Ira Kupferberg, Mg; Eric Lefstad, GS; Carol & Jim Lemay, Wh; Wilma Lindberg, B; Mildred Linder, B; Jan Lloyd, FM, GS; Sally Looney, Wh; Joe McAleavey, GS; Doug McGinty, Mg; Mike McMillian, FM, GS; Ainsley McNeely, FM; Andrea Menyhert, Mg; Joe Meyers, Mg; Ann L. Miller, B, GS, Wh; Richard Mills, GS; Bill Milmore, GS; Richard Modlin, Wh; Joe Mostronico, Wh; Royce Neidert, Wa; Larry Neill, Wa; Jane Newell, Wa; Wilhelmina Nonkes, FM; Ethel Owen, B; Johnny Parks, GU, Wa; Dee Patterson, Wa; James Peavy, GS; Beverly Petty, B; Ned Piper, Wa; Elberta & Robert Reid, GS, Wh; Dick Reynolds, Gu; Linda Reynolds, Gu, Wh; Bill Rogers, Wa; Ila Roose, GS; Michael Russell, B, GS, Wh; Ari Rutkoff, Wh; Bob & Martha Sargent, B, GS; Madge Scharber, B; Maureen Shaffer, B, GS; Floyd Sherrod, Wa; Jill Shirley, E; Damien, Don, & Regina Simbeck, Wa; Maud Skiba, FM; Idalene Snead, B; Michael Soroczak, Wa; Andrew, Betsy, & Gordon Tetlow, GS; Philip Tetlow, FMGS; Helen Thigpen, B; Jim & Frances Thompson, T; Mary & Ralph Tiller, FM, GS; Therese Tonitis, B; Jenetta Waddell, Wa; Mary Wakefield, Wa; Ralph Wallace, Wa; Steve Ward, FM; Anthony Watkins, Wa; Larry Watts, Wh; Jim & Shirley Wayland, Wa; Ted Weems, GS; Chan West, FM, GS; Don Wiginton, B; Marjorie Williams, Wh; Erika Wilson, Mg; Beverly & John Winn, DI, MT; total, 151 with three lists of names missing.

Highest count was Gulf Shores with a record 170 species, the best count ever for Alabama! Congratulations to all who helped make it such a big success, especially compiler Greg Jackson. However, cooperation this year was slow and short. The last list was received on Mar 8 and we are still missing one bird list and three observer lists, so if you don't find your name properly accredited in the above list, check with your local compiler. Drastic steps must be taken to ensure that this article be compiled without an excessive outlay of effort or time, so in the future, it will be made up entirely from material on hand as of FEBRUARY 1! Compilers may cultivate the habit of making a copy of their count and mailing it to Imhof at the same time as they send one to American Birds. Be sure to include list of participants so everyone gets credit!

The unprecedented severe cold of Dec. 20–25 in Alabama caused the postponement of several counts. (Birmingham had 92 continuous hours of below freezing weather, nearly all of it with a below zero wind-chill.) Our counts had lots of waterfowl escaping freezing lakes, a shift to the south of some ground-feeders such as Chipping Sparrows, and an influx of Robins and Cedar Waxwings, but no big influx of Purple Finches or Evening Grosbeaks.

Thomas A. Imhof, 1036 Pike Road, Birmingham, AL 35218

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY OF WATERLOO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS, 1985–1989

Paul Kittle

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SPECIES	85 85	UMBER 86	OF IN	98 DIAIDO	ALS S.	EEN _	85	O. OF 1	ND. PEF 87	88 10 PAR	TY HO	$\frac{\mathbf{RS}_{\mathbf{X}}}{\mathbf{X}}$
	00	00	01	00	09	^	00	00	01	00	09	^
Com Loon	18	7	21	8	0	10.8	3.3	1.0	2.6	1.2	0.0	1.6
P-b Grebe	29	29	54	13	16	28.2	5.3	4.1	6.7	2.0	2.0	4.0
Horned Grebe	38	51	80	30	27	45.2	7.0	7.2	9.9	4.5	3.4	6.4
D-c Cormorant	3	39	5	5	14	13.2	0.6	5.5	0.6	0.8	1.8	1.8
G B Heron	139	188	386	213	204	226.0	25.6	26.4	47.5	32.3	25.8	31.5
Great Egret	0	0	0	1	0	0.2	0.0	0	0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Snow Goose	1	0	0	4	1	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.1	0.2
Can Goose	1130	22	31	14	1102	459.8	208.3	3.1	3.8	2.1	139.3	71.3
Wood Duck	5	4	0	2	13	4.8	0.9	0.6	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.7
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	3	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.1
BlackDuck	61	32	59	144	49	69.0	11.2	4.5	7.3	21.8	6.2	10.2
Mallard	1001	170	234	111	906	484.4	184.5	23.9	28.8	16.8	114.6	73.7
N Pintail	5	. 0	0	0	5	2.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.3
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	2	0	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1
N Shoveler	0	6	0	0	1	1.4	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
Gadwall	117	17	177	116	194	124.2	21.6	2.4	21.8	17.6	24.5	17.6
Am Wigeon	1	2	0	0	1	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Canvasback	0	1	1	0	4	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	0.2
Redhead	1	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ring-necked Duck	4	6	3	18	21	10.4	0.7	0.8	0.4	2.7	2.7	1.5
Greater Scaup	0	6	0	0	0	1.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Lesser Scaup	414	85	4	13	21	107.4	76.3	11.9	0.5	2.0	2.7	18.7
Oldsquaw	0	11	0	0	0	2.2	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Black Scoter	6	2	0	0	0	1.6	1.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Wh-W Scoter	8	0	2	0	0	2.0	1.5	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3
Com Goldeneye	67	122	28	44	81	68.4	12.4	17.1	3.4	6.7	10.2	10.0
Bufflehead	36	78	126	95	60	79.0	6.6	10.9	15.5	14.4	7.6	11.0
Hooded Merganser	745	1112	782	1148	388	835.0	137.3	156.1	96.3	173.9	49.1	122.5
Com Merganser	4	1	0	27	1	6.6	0.7	0.1	0.0	4.1	0.1	1.0
Red-br-Merganser	20	59	20	52	5	31.2	3.7	8.3	2.5	7.9	0.6	4.6
Ruddy Duck	0	6	1	1	0	1.6	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.2		0.2
Black Vulture	1	20	0	0	0	4.2	0.2	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6
Turkey Vulture	0	0	16	6	9	6.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.9	1.1	0.8
Osprey	0	1	0	0	0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bald Eagle	34	59	78	72	57	60.0	6.3	8.3	9.6	10.9	7.2	8.5
N Harrier	3	4	5	8	14	6.8	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.8	0.9
Sharp-sh Hawk	1	2	2	0	1	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2
Cooper's Hawk	3	0	0	0	4	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.2
Red-sh Hawk	3	32	11	8	5	7.0	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.6	1.0
Red-tailed Hawk	21		34	20	42	29.8	3.9	4.5	4.2	3.0	5.3	4.2
Am Kestrel	4	8	10	7	13	8.4	0.7	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.2
Wild Turkey	0	0	25	0	0	5.0	0.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	0.0	0.6
N Bobwhite	31 21	60 72	32 416	4 83	29 179	31.2 154.2	5.7 3.9	8.4	3.9 51.2	0.6 12.6	3.7	4.5 20.1
Am Coot	136	121	177	195	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	154.2	25.1	10.1	21.8	29.5	13.9	21.5
Killdeer	0	0		195	110			17.0		0.0		0.1
Least Sandp	0	0	3	0	3 2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.1
Dunlin Com Spins	21	18	98	48	44	45.8	3.9	2.5	12.1	7.3	5.6	6.3
Com Snipe Am Woodcock	0	2	2	0	1	1.0	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
Franklin's Gull	1	0	0	0	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bonapart's Gull	315	549	156	742	488	450.0	58.1	77.1	19.2	112.4	61.7	65.7
	779	1306	836	962	1878	1152.2	143.6	183.3	103.0	145.8	237.5	162.6
Ring-b Gull	33	39	8	23	35	27.6	6.1	5.5	1.0	3.5	4.4	4.1
Herring Gull Great Blk-b Gull	0	0	o	1	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Forster's Tern	1	o	9	8	2	4.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.2	0.0	0.6
Rock Dove	190	166	156	132	152	159.2	35.0	23.3	19.2	20.0	19.2	23.4
Mourning Dove	57	107	393	128	117	160.4	10.5	15.0	48.4	19.4	14.8	21.6
Monthing Dove	01	107	393	120	117	100.4	10.5	10.0	40.4	13.4	14.0	21.0

ODECTEO		TIMPET	OBIN	DIVIDI	TAT 0 0	DEN		O OD I	AND THE	10010	mu IIO	ma
SPECIES	85 N	UMBEF 86	87	88 DIVIDO	89	EEN X	85 N	0. OF 1	ND. PEF 87	10 PAR 88	TY HO	URS_X
		_										
Barn Owl	0	0	0	1	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.3
Screech Owl Gt Horned Owl	18	28	20 11	23	9 5	19.6 5.6	55.4 9.2	38.6 9.7	23.8	31.7	20.0	33.9
Barred Owl	1	9	11	4	5	6.0	3.1	12.4	13.1 13.1	2.8 5.5	11.1	9.2
Belted Kingfisher	34	44	35	27	20	32.0	6.3	6.2	4.3	4.1	2.5	4.7
Red-hd Woodpecker		18	0	10	2	7.0	0.9	2.5	0.0	1.5	0.3	1.0
Red-bl Woodpecker		33	52	37	98	51.8	7.2	4.6	6.4	5.6	12.4	7.2
Yellow-b Sapsucker		38	25	26	62	36.8	6.1	5.3	3.1	3.9	7.8	5.3
Downy Wdpkr	35	51	72	41	74	54.6	6.5	7.2	8.9	6.2	9.4	7.6
Hairy Wdpkr	4	9	8	6	12	7.8	0.7	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.1
N Flicker	65	71	116	61	93	81.2	12.0	10.0	14.3	9.2	11.8	11.4
Pileated Wdpkr	19	21	24	18	26	21.6	3.5	2.9	3.0	2.7	3.3	3.1
E Phoebe	6	13	9 206	3 97	10	8.2	1.1	1.8	1.1	0.5	1.3	1.2
Horned Lark Blue Jay	3 182	0 292	53	227	247 214	110.6 193.6	0.6 33.5	0.0 41.0	25.4 6.5	14.7	31.2	14.4
Am Crow	200	195	340	192	156	216.6	36.9	27.4	41.9	34.4 29.1	27.1 19.7	28.5 31.0
	158	160	237	176	218	189.8	29.1	22.5	29.2	26.7	27.6	27.0
Tufted Titmouse	54	103	103	65	95	84.0	10.0	14.5	12.7	9.8	12.0	11.8
Red-br Nuthatch	13	4	6	2	4	5.8	2.4	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.9
Wh-br Nuthatch	14	14	36	10	24	19.6	2.6	2.0	4.4	1.5	3.0	2.7
Brown Creeper	2	12	28	12	28	16.4	0.4	1.7	3.4	1.8	3.5	2.2
Carolina Wren	27	73	79	27	74	56.0	5.0	10.2	9.7	4.1	9.4	7.7
House Wren	1	4	0	0	2	1.4	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2
Winter Wren	4	10	31	13	19	15.4	0.7	1.4	3.8	2.0	2.4	2.1
Sedge Wren	0	0	0	3	0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.1
Golden-cr Kinglet	22	54	117	46	182	84.2	4.1	7.6	14.4	7.0	23.0	11.2
Ruby-cr Kinglet	39	68	118	65	169	91.8 0.2	7.2	9.5	14.5	9.8	21.4	12.5
B-gray Gnatcatcher E Bluebird	112	82	178	124	188	136.8	20.6	0.0 11.5	0.0 21.9	0.0 18.8	0.0 23.8	0.0 19.3
Hermit Thrush	26	42	22	25	82	39.4	4.8	5.9	2.7	3.8	10.4	5.5
	124	543	542	1211		1007.2	22.9	76.2	66.7	183.5	330.8	136.0
Gray Catbird	0	0	0	1	0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
N Mockingbird	41	40	64	39	85	53.8	7.6	5.6	7.9	5.9	10.7	7.5
Brown Thrasher	15	10	4	10	24	12.6	2.8	1.4	0.5	1.5	3.0	1.8
Water Pipit	51	0	21	1	3	15.2	9.4	0.0	2.6	0.2	0.4	2.5
Cedar Waxwing	231	63	419	433	883	405.8	42.6	8.8	51.6	65.6	111.6	56.1
Loggerhead Shrike	5	16	15	13	6	11.0	0.9	2.2	1.8	2.0	0.8	1.5
Starling	950	544	1543	614	244	779.0	175.1	76.4	190.0	93.0	30.9	113.1
Solitary Vireo	0 24	0 82	157	0 156	328	0.2 149.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Yellow-r Warbler Pine Warbler	6	15	22	20	10	149.4	1.1	11.5 2.1	19.3	23.6 3.0	41.5 1.3	20.1
N Cardinal	317	219	444	167	421	313.6	58.4	30.7	54.7	25.3	53.2	44.5
Rufous-s Towhee	81	61	35	36	95	61.6	14.9	8.6	4.3	5.5	12.0	9.1
Tree Sparrow	0	0	0	0	2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1
Chipping Sparrow	45	6	23	8	5	17.4	8.3	0.8	2.8	1.2	0.6	2.8
Field Sparrow	189	238	454	182	436	299.8	34.8	33.4	55.9	27.6	55.1	41.4
Vesper Sparrow	4	3	5	1	2	3.0	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.4
Savannah Sparrow	26	117	38	66	229	95.2	4.8	16.4	4.7	10.0	29.0	13.0
Henslow's Sparrow	1	0	0	2	0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1
LeConte's Sparrow	1	1	0	1	4	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.5	0.2
Fox Sparrow	13	9	5	170	34	13.8	2.4	1.3	0.6	1.2	4.3	2.0
Song Sparrow	145	312	346	179	395	275.4 0.8	26.7	43.8	42.6	27.1	49.9	38.0
Lincoln's Sparrow Swamp Sparrow	0 25	125	0 86	47	1 76	71.8	0.0 4.6	0.3 17.5	10.6	0.2 7.1	0.1 9.6	0.1 9.9
Wh-th Sparrow	463	242	272	396	751	424.8	85.3	34.0	33.5	60.0	95.0	61.6
Wh-cr Sparrow	93	7	64	34	87	57.0	17.1	1.0	7.9	5.2	11.0	8.4
Dark-eyed Junco	795	332	441	583	937	617.6	146.5	46.6	54.3	88.3	118.5	90.9
Lapland Longspur	6	0	0	0	0	1.2	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Red-wg Blackbird	190	402	1025	911	762	658.0	35.0	56.4	126.2	138.0	96.3	90.4
E Meadowlark	129	120	268	107	273	179.4	23.8	16.8	33.0	16.2	34.5	24.9
Rusty Blackbird	8	13	6	12	4	8.6	1.5	1.8	0.7	1.8	0.5	1.3
Brewer's Blackbird		80	0	1	0	16.2	0.0	11.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	2.3
Com Grackle	74	4609	2283	2635		1944.0	13.6	646.9	281.2	399.2	15.0	271.2
Brown-h Cowbird	33	45	160	106	89	86.6	6.1	6.3	19.7	16.1	11.3	11.9
Purple Finch	51	30	53	2	117	50.6	9.4	4.2	6.5	0.3	14.8	7.0

SPECIES	NUMBE	ROFI	DIVID	UALS SI	EEN _	N	O. OF I	D. PER	10 PAR	TY HOU	JRS_
84	86	87	88	89	X	85	86	87	88	89	X
House Finch	1	50	28	1	16.4	0.4	0.1	6.2	4.2	0.1	2.2
Pine Siskin 23	4	16	12	77	26.4	4.2	0.6	2.0	1.8	9.7	3.7
Am Goldfinch 88	167	421	281	212	233.8	16.2	23.4	51.8	42.6	26.8	32.2
House Sparrow 69	28	53	40	91	56.2	12.7	3.9	6.5	6.1	11.5	8.1
No. of Species 10	101	95	103	104	101.6						
No. of Individ. 1094	14569	15754	14195	17839							
No. of Party Hrs. 54.2	71.25	81.2	66	79.09							
No. of Owling Hrs. 3.2	7.25	8.4	7.25	4.5							
No. of Participants 1	23	25	20	25							
No. of Parties	7	9	8	8							

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1989-90 FALL AND WINTER SIGHTINGS

Greg D. Jackson

The fall and winter of 1989-90 might be described as a mixed bag of treats for birders. Regular migrants were seen in normal numbers this autumn, but there were only a few real rarities. The winter, especially late December and early January, was quite exciting, with an unusual number of rare species and an abundance of birds. Many Christmas Bird Counts, particularly on the coast, set new highs for number of species, with the Gulf Shores count reaching a new Alabama and area maximum of 170 species!

August was quite dry, in contrast to the wet early summer. Precipitation in the other autumn months was normal for the season. Temperatures during the fall were also fairly normal, though there were cool periods in mid-August and late September, a cold spell in mid-October, and a rather warm period in mid-November. Rainfall in December was lower than expected, but January and February were quite wet. The big weather news was the severe cold in the early winter. This undoubtedly had much to do with the fantastic birding in the following weeks. December began cool, then three cold fronts descended in rapid succession in the middle of the month. This caused a sustained period of frigid weather; Birmingham saw four consecutive days when the temperature never rose above freezing. Muscle Shoals had a low of -5 deg. F on 23 Dec. Even in Mobile, the mercury plummeted to 9 deg. F on that date, and the high on the preceding day was only 22 deg. F. When we finally thawed, we were then treated to a winter that was unusually warm.

The following reports cover the period August 1989 through February 1990 in Alabama and the Florida Panhandle (east to the Apalachicola River). The appearance of an observation in this column does not indicate verification or acceptance of a record for a very rare species, as these must be considered by the appropriate state records committees. Concerning the acceptance of sightings, it is essential that all submissions of birds that are rare, either in general or for a particular season or region, be accompanied by adequate details of the observation. The extent of this documentation depends on the rarity of the species and the difficulty of identification, but should always describe the diagnostic characters observed, as well as the conditions of observation. I have become the custodian of records in Alabama, and I would like to maintain a set of records for the state that will not be subject to questioning in the future. Fifty years from now, someone looking over our observations will likely not know the people involved in the sightings, and without written details these records will be almost meaningless. Your help in this matter is appreciated.

County names are in italics. "WP" refers to the western Panhandle of Florida (Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties). Records not specifying Florida or "WP" are in Alabama. "*ABRC" and "*FBRC" indicate sightings that will need evaluation by the bird records committees of Alabama and Florida, respectively. "CBC" = Christmas Bird Count, "mob" = many observers, "NS" = National Seashore, "NWR" = National Wildlife Refuge, "WMA" = Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS - GREBES: Red-throated Loons are rare but regular on the coast in winter, and one bird was noted on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (DMB). The sixth Alabama record of Pacific Loon was a bird studied closely near Gulf Shores 1 Jan (DMB) (* ABRC). Migrating Piedbilled Grebes were seen in good numbers in the Tennessee Valley this fall, with 425 noted 28 Sep and 5 Oct at Swan Creek WMA, Limestone (GDJ). This species breeds only rarely in the WP, so the pair with five downy young at Pensacola 6 Feb was unusual (CLK,mob). Eared Grebes returned to Blakely Island, Mobile, beginning with one bird 9 Sep (PB,GF), and peaking with eight seen 23 Sep (AOS). Three Eared Grebes were noted at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., 25 Oct and 4 Nov (DMW,CW,mob).

SHEARWATERS - CORMORANTS: For the fourth consecutive year, shearwaters were recorded from shore on the Gulf Shores CBC. This season's count (30 Dec) yielded two Sooty Shearwaters for a sixth state record (GDJ,HHK,GA); a Sooty was also spotted the following morning, next in a few minutes by the fourth state record of an

Audubon's Shearwater (RAD,LSD,PT,BT) (all * ABRC)! A dying N. Gannet was discovered on the beach at Ft. Morgan 28 Aug (JTF); another of this species was seen south of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, by an AOS pelagic trip 16 Sep. Gannets are now known to be present year-round in the Gulf, though numbers are certainly much lower in the summer and early fall than in winter. Double-crested Cormorants were numerous inland this winter; the 175 seen 13 Jan in *Montgomery* set a new maximum for the Coastal Plain (EMW).

HERONS - STORKS: A Least Bittern was late 24 Nov at Gulf Islands NS, Escambia, Fla. (RAD, JP). "Great White" Herons are rare. in our area, so the two birds this fall in the Panhandle were interesting. One was in Bay 4 Sep (RAD, RSD, PT), and the second was in Okaloosa 20 Sep (AS fide DMW). The Great Egret seen in Lauderdale at Wilson Dam 13 Jan (PDK,DEK) was rare for the season, and 43 seen in Montgomery 14 Jan (LG) were interesting for that area in winter. Plegadis ibis (unidentified) seemed unusually widespread in our region this year. Up to four birds were noted 11 Aug to 23 Sep at Blakely Island (DMB,CAB,JH,PB,GF,MN,AOS), and one was spotted at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., 15 Sep (DMW,CW). Much more unusual were the inland records of one bird 16-17 Sep in Colbert (TMH,GNP,BR), and 11 birds 17 Feb in Montgomery (RRS, MBS). The latter observation was only the second winter record for the Coastal Plain. An exciting find, part of a widespread pattern in the Southeast last summer, was an immature Roseate Spoonbill 12 Aug at Blakely Island (DMB,CAB) (accepted ABRC). This was the sixth state record of this species. The Wood Storks that invaded the Coastal Plain beginning in mid-summer reached a peak count 12 Aug with 137 seen in Perry (TAI, PF, RF, DW).

WATERFOWL: Waterfowl were present in excellent numbers during the first half of the winter. The warm weather in January and February was credited with an earlier than usual departure of ducks and geese by personnel at Wheeler NWR. I received three reports of the rare Tundra Swan this winter. One bird was on the Mobile Causeway in Baldwin 14-27 Jan (LSD,RAD,mob); another was seen 26 Jan to 10 Feb near Eufaula (RRS,MBS,HHF,mob); the third was noted in Escambia Bay, Fla., 1 Feb (BM,RB,JS). Greater White-fronted Geese were more plentiful than usual throughout the region. The first sighting was of four birds 1-4 Nov at Panama City, Fla. (HL,mob). Sixteen were located at Wheeler NWR(Limestone) 27 Nov(GDJ,HHK), and increased to 53 birds (a new state maximum) on the refuge in Morgan 1 Dec (DMB). Two White-fronteds were on the Choctawhatchee Bay (Fla.) CBC18 Dec, and

5-6 birds were present 30 Dec to 6 Jan in south Baldwin (RRS, MBS, mob).

Snow Geese are regular in small numbers on the coast, but this year there were three sightings involving at least 100 birds in south *Baldwin* 3 Nov to 30 Dec (PB,RAD,mob). Ross' Geese seem to be increasing in incidence in the Southeast in recent years, and this winter there were two sightings in Alabama. One was located in Wheeler NWR(*Limestone*) 18 Nov (ALM,mob), and the second was in south *Baldwin* 1-4 Jan (DMB,mob) (both *ABRC). There are only three prior confirmed records of this species in Alabama, and none of these have been from the coast. To round out the geese, up to 25 Canadas were noted in the Pensacola, Fla., area (where they are rare) 17 Sep (AS) and 26 Nov (RAD,PT).

Mottled Ducks continue to do well at Blakely Island, and a new Alabama high of 53 was recorded there 12 Aug (DMB,CAB). As is usual, a few Greater Scaup were sighted on the Tennessee River this winter. Three were noted 26 Dec on the Guntersville CBC, and one bird was at Town Creek, Colbert, 14 Jan (GDJ). An out-of-season Lesser Scaup was at Blakely Island 20 Aug (GDJ,DGJ). Oldsquaws seemed easier to find this winter. Sightings included one at Blakely Island 25 Nov (RAD,JP), another on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (DMB), one east of Guntersville 6-7 Jan (PF,mob), two to three birds at Gulf Shores 4-17 Feb (PB,GF,JL,mob), and a lone individual 10-11 Feb at Eufaula (PF,mob).

Scoters were present in good numbers on the coast. Black Scoter reports included three at Gulf Shores 2 Dec (GDJ.DGJ), four on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (MR), and five on the Ft. Morgan CBC 1 Jan. I received eight reports of Surf Scoters totaling 42 birds; this is the scoter species most frequently seen in our area. One at Gulf Shores 21 Oct (MN,MFF,mob) was a new early record for Alabama, and another early arrival was at Gulf Breeze, Fla. 29 Oct (RAD). A White-winged Scoter was on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (DMB), four were seen at Gulf Shores the following day (GDJ), and another individual was at Ft. Morgan 14 Feb (DMB). Finishing out the ducks, Common Mergansers were noted widely this winter. This species is only regular (in small numbers) at a few spots in the Tennessee Valley, and the high reported from this region was six 14 Jan at Waterloo, Lauderdale (GDJ, DGJ). More unusual was a solitary bird in west Jefferson on Porter Lake 31 Jan to 18 March (ALM, HHF, TAI, mob). Quite rare on the coast, a Common Merganser was well described on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (PT).

RAPTORS: Eighty Black Vultures were unusual on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec, as large numbers are normally not present in the Tennessee Valley, particularly in winter. An Osprey was noted carrying

nesting material at Gulf Shores 18 Feb (PB); this species nests annually in Baldwin. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was seen at Ft. Pickens 17 Sep. (RAD) for a late WP record. Black-shouldered Kites are only occasional in our area, though two were sighted in southern Alabama last winter. The fifth state record was 21 Oct at Ft. Morgan (MFF,MN,AF,DF,mob), and another bird was sighted on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec (RRS,MBS) (both * ABRC). Bald Eagles have fortunately become rather numerous in winter along the Tennessee River, but are still uncommon to rare away from this area. This fall and winter they seemed more common than usual on the Alabama and Florida coasts, with 11 reports totaling 14 individuals. The first sighting on the coast was of three immatures 7 Oct at Ft. Morgan (PB,GF,AF,DF,mob). The Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay was again the best hawkwatching spot this fall, with VBF noting 185 Broad-winged Hawks 28 Sep, 390 on 4 Oct, and 217 the following day. Twenty-two Red-tailed Hawks were spotted in one hour at this site 18 Nov (VBF). The "hawk farm" near Guntersville Dam was dependable again this year for Rough-legged Hawk, with one bird wintering. Golden Eagles are seen annually in our area, but are still An immature was noted at Dauphin Island 31 Jan (DB,TP,MVH), and probably the same bird was spotted at Ft. Morgan 5 Feb (MH). Another Golden Eagle was located near the Guntersville Dam 10 Feb (HHK.GA).

Merlins are regular in small numbers in fall migration on the coast, and this season I had seven reports involving 16 birds from 28 Sep to 22 Oct. More unusual were two reports near Marion 12 Nov (GDJ,BCG) and 23 Jan (GDJ), possibly the same bird. There were also two Merlins on the Choctawhatchee Bay (Fla.) CBC 18 Dec, and one 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC. Peregrine Falcons seem to be rebounding, with numerous individuals on the coast from 23 Sep to 18 Nov. High count was seven birds at Ft. Morgan 7-8 Oct (PDK,GDJ,mob). Outside the migration period on the coast, there were five noted on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec, and two seen 1 Jan on the Ft. Morgan CBC. Inland Peregrines included one at Greenville 3 Oct (CK), an immature in Limestone 27 Nov (GDJ,HHK), and an adult in Morgan 10 Dec (DMB). The Prairie Falcon returned again for the sixth winter to the "hawk farm" near Guntersville, first seen 9 Jan (DMB).

RAILS - SHOREBIRDS: The Common Moorhen spotted 3 Sep in Colbert (TMH) was a first occurrence for northwest Alabama. Sandhill Cranes returned this winter to Gulf Shores, with 14 noted 2 Dec (GDJ). The high count was 34 birds 9 Jan (PB) setting a new maximum for the

Glaucous Gull at Wheeler Dam 15-28 Jan (ALM,mob) (* ABRC). I received three reports of Great Black-backed Gulls, all in first-winter plumage. One was seen on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (DMB), another 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (GDJ), and the third 27 Feb in Colbert (DMB,CAB) (* ABRC). The last unusual gull reported was the hard-to-categorize "Ole One Foot," seen yet another season in the WP. It was located 4 Dec in Escambia (PJ) and 26 Dec in Santa Rosa (BM). I'm not fully convinced that this bird will ever die, but if it does perhaps it will have the consideration to do so near a birder so we can try to make a positive identification!

Common Terns are quite uncommon in winter along our coast, so the sighting of "several" at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., 29 Nov (BB,OEF) and five 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (BB,DMB) were interesting. Forster's Terns are hard to find in many inland areas in winter; two were seen on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (LR,DR), and one bird was noted 1 Jan at Greenville (CK) for a first Butler record. A rare juvenile Bridled Tern was noted on the AOS pelagic trip south of Baldwin 16 Sep. Two Sooty Terns were reported this year. The first was at Ft. Morgan 5 Aug (PB,GF) and the second was found dead on Santa Rosa Island, Escambia, Fla., 20 Nov (CLK).

DOVES - SWIFTS: White-winged Doves seemed less common this fall than in many previous years. Solitary birds were seen at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (MN, MFF, mob), 13 Nov (JD), and 2-3 Jan (PB, GF, DMB). Nine Common Ground-Doves were noteworthy 26 Dec in Butler (CK). Groove-billed Anis are sporadic in fall and winter on the coast, but are usually noted each year, sometimes in good numbers. I only had reports of four birds at three locations in early winter, the first of two birds at Gulf Shores 7 Dec (PB,GF). In the "believe-it-or-not" category comes the tale (fide CLK) of a falconer (DVW) in northwest Florida whose Harris' Hawk captured an adult Groove-billed Ani in Pensacola 16 Dec (for the Pensacola CBC!). Van Wormer then decided to fly his hawk in the Ft. Walton Beach area later that day, and the bird captured another ani! Both birds were released unharmed. Harris' Hawks and Groove-billed Anis are native to the same area, but I'll leave it up to you to draw conclusions. A Burrowing Owl was noted again this fall at Ft. Morgan 10 Nov (RAD). Short-eared Owls are rare most years, and I received a single report of one at Cape San Blas, Bay, Fla., 26 Nov (RH fide TM). A Chimney Swift 20 Oct at Guntersville (GDE) was rather late.

HUMMINGBIRDS: Thanks to the banding efforts of the Sargents, a pattern is emerging in Alabama and northwest Florida that is similar,

though on a lesser scale, to that noted previously in Louisiana. Five species were banded in the fall and early winter in our region, but none were reported after the "Big Chill" in mid-December. The third Florida record of Buff-bellied Hummingbird was a bird banded in Walton 18 Dec (*FBRC). Alabama has yet to record this species, though it occurred again this year in coastal Mississippi. A late Ruby-throated was banded in Mobile 6 Dec. Banded Black-chinneds on the coast included six birds in the WP 5 Nov to 19 Dec, and two on the Alabama coast 6 Dec. Inland banded Black-chinneds included one in east Jefferson 1-2 Aug and one in Decatur from mid-October to mid-December. An albino hummingbird was in Shelby 23 Aug to 4 Sep, and was banded and photographed 28 Aug (*ABRC). This was thought to have been a young Black-chinned based on measurements, structure, and voice. The most exciting humming bird was a Calliope, Florida's first, banded near Ft. Walton Beach 18 Dec and present for the next two days (accepted FBRC). An immature male Rufous Hummingbird was observed in Birmingham 8 Sep (TAI). Four Rufous were banded in the WP from 9 Oct to 19 Dec, and on 6 Dec on the Alabama coast three birds were banded.

FLYCATCHERS: There were three reports this fall of Olive-sided Flycatchers. Single birds were at Ft. Morgan 16 Sep (JTP) and 30 Oct (PB), and on Dauphin Island 22 Sep (JTP,MMc,BMc). The Eastern Wood-Pewee 29 Oct in Montgomery (LG) was a late record for the Coastal Plain. Positively identified Yellow-bellied Flycatchers are rare; one bird was banded at Ft. Morgan 1 Oct (RRS, MBS). The female Vermilion Flycatcher noted near Marion 17 Sep (ALM, ADM) was a new early date for the state. Another female Vermilion was seen 26 Oct at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. (DMW). Western Kingbirds are normally observed in small numbers on the outer coast in autumn, and this year I received nine reports of 12 birds at Ft. Morgan and Dauphin Island from 8 Sep (JH) to 25 Nov (EMW). High count was three at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (GDJ, mob). This species is less common in winter, with one record this year from Ft. Morgan 17 Feb (PB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are a regular treat in the fall, but seemed harder to find this year. The only reports were of solitary birds at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep (RRS, MBS) and 4-5 Nov (PB, RAD). and on Dauphin Island 22 Oct (GDJ.DGJ).

SWALLOWS - VIREOS: The N. Rough-winged Swallow 17 Nov in Santa Rosa, Fla. (BM) was rather late. Fish Crows continue to be seen above the Fall Line at Porter Lake in Jefferson, with five present 5 Oct to 18 Nov (TAI, mob). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged an invasion this fall, with many birds remaining throughout our area for the winter. The

Glaucous Gull at Wheeler Dam 15-28 Jan (ALM,mob) (* ABRC). I received three reports of Great Black-backed Gulls, all in first-winter plumage. One was seen on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (DMB), another 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (GDJ), and the third 27 Feb in Colbert (DMB,CAB) (* ABRC). The last unusual gull reported was the hard-to-categorize "Ole One Foot," seen yet another season in the WP. It was located 4 Dec in Escambia (PJ) and 26 Dec in Santa Rosa (BM). I'm not fully convinced that this bird will ever die, but if it does perhaps it will have the consideration to do so near a birder so we can try to make a positive identification!

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earliest report was of an amazing 100+ birds at Ft. Morgan 1 Oct (RRS,MBS), far exceeding the previous maximum for the state. A Bluegray Gnatcatcher at Swan Creek WMA, Limestone, 27 Nov (GDJ, HHK) was a late record for the Tennessee Valley. A flock of 75-100 Eastern Bluebirds was notable at Ft. Morgan 29 Nov (CLK, mob). The fourth winter WP record of Swainson's Thrush was on the Pensacola CBC 16 Dec (AF,DF,BeB). The total of 48,184 Am. Robins listed on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec was a new Gulf Coast maximum. The only unusual vireo report that I received was from the winter, with a Yellow-throated seen in Montgomery 1 Feb (DTM,JF) for the second Coastal Plain record in that season.

WOOD WARBLERS: A Tennessee Warbler in Montgomery 1 Nov (EMW) was late. Orange-crowned Warblers are rare in winter in the Tennessee Valley, and two were discovered in Limestone this year. One was at Swan Creek WMA16 Dec (CAB, LDB, DMB), and the other was in Wheeler NWR 17 Jan (DMB), Three Nashville Warblers at Ft. Morgan 4 Oct (PB) were interesting. The N. Parula seen 18 Dec on the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC (GF) was the fourth winter record for the WP. A late Coastal Plain record was set by the observation of a Yellow Warbler 11 Nov in Montgomery (EMW). Black-throated Blue Warblers are difficult to find in the fall. This season there were single birds at Montrose, Baldwin, 1 Oct (VBF), and at Ft. Morgan 4 Oct and 28 Oct. (PB,mob). The impressive total of 11,800 Yellow-rumped Warblers on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec established a new state maximum. A Palm Warbler was recorded on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (CDC); this species is rare in the Tennessee Valley at that season.

The first Mountain Region winter record of Black-and-white Warbler was a bird 28 Dec in Coosa (DTM). An Ovenbird 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC (DFr) was only the third winter record for the state. Rare in the fall, especially inland, was a Mourning Warbler found dead 4 Sep (specimen Univ. of N. Ala.). This was the first autumn record for northwest Alabama. The Wilson's Warbler sighted 21 Oct in Birmingham (TAI) was the latest fall migration record for this species in the Mountain Region, though there is a winter record. The fifth winter WP report of this species was 18 Dec on the Choctawhatchee Bay CBC. Another rare winter warbler was the Yellow-breasted Chat seen 4 Feb at Ft. Morgan (PB,GF,JL,PG).

GROSBEAKS - LONGSPURS: Eighteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 200+ Indigo Buntings were noted in a few hours at Dauphin Island on the rather late date of 2 Nov (JH). Painted Buntings summer at Blakely Island, and a male was seen there 12 Aug (DMB,CAB). Another adult male was present during the last week of January in Pensacola (FC) for a first WP winter record. The first winter record of a Dickcissel in the Tennessee Valley was a single bird observed from 27 Jan to 25 Feb in *Lauderdale* (PDK,DEK). Clay-colored Sparrows are usually seen each fall on the outer coast, and this year I received a report of one at Ft. Morgan 3 Oct (LG,FS). Normally more common than Clay-coloreds are Lark Sparrows, though the only submission was of two birds 30 Sep to 1 Oct at Ft. Morgan (RRS,MBS).

Several Grasshopper Sparrows were noted on the coast, beginning with one at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (GDJ). Four were discovered near Gulf Shores 7 Dec (PB,GF). The reliable, though tedious to locate, Henslow's Sparrow again made an appearance on the Gulf Shores CBC 30 Dec, when one was found (BB). It seemed to be a good year for finding Le Conte's Sparrows in Alabama. I have records of three birds near Cherokee, Colbert, 19 Nov to 16 Dec (GNP,WB), one at Ft. Morgan 2 Dec (PB,GF), four 30 Dec on the Gulf Shores CBC, and two on the Ft. Morgan CBC 1 Jan. Lincoln's Sparrows were noted at Ft. Morgan 21 Oct (GDJ) and 2 Dec (PB,GF). The celebrity sparrow for the season was the adult Harris' found on the Ft. Morgan CBC 1 Jan (AF,DF,mob) which remained through the winter. This species is quite rare in our area. Only a few Lapland Longspurs were recorded, with reports of two 16 Dec at Swan Creek WMA, Limestone (DMB), and single birds 18 Dec in Morgan (DMB) and 9 Feb in Santa Rosa, Fla. (RB,JB).

BLACKBIRDS - FINCHES: Bobolinks are often difficult to find in the autumn, especially inland; the single bird located in Colbert 16 Sep. (TMH) and the approximately 50 seen 24 Sep on Dauphin Island (AOS) were noteworthy. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in the WP in September. One was in Pensacola 6 Sep (CLK), another at Ft. Walton Beach 16 Sep (DMW, CW, mob), and the third at Ft. Pickens 17 Sep (RAD). Brewer's Blackbirds are difficult to find in the Tennessee Valley, so six spotted 18 Dec in Morgan (DMB) were interesting. There were two winter Northern Oriole reports. One seen 22 Dec to 25 Feb in Colbert (GNP.mob) was a first for the Tennessee Valley at that season. Another bird was in Montgomery 26 Dec (RAD). House Finch numbers decrease toward the south, so 70 in Montgomery 30 Dec (EMW) were noteworthy. Twelve of these invaders were on the Pensacola CBC for a WP maximum. This was not a good year for Evening Grosbeaks in our area, though they were noted sporadically in east Jefferson (RRS,MBS). Highest count was 71 on the Guntersville CBC 26 Dec (CDC).

OBSERVERS: Alabama Ornithological Society, Gussie Arnett, Jane Ballman, Richard Ballman, Don Bland, Paul Blevins, Bill Bremser, Bernice Brown (BeB), Craig A. Brown, D. Mark Brown, Linda D. Brown, Frank Craddock, C. Dwight Cooley, John Dillon, Lucy S. Duncan, Robert A. Duncan, R. Scot Duncan, Glen D. Eller, Owen E. Fang, Harriett H. Findlay, John Findlay, Gene Fleming, Mary F. Floyd, Ann Forster, Dan Forster, Paul Franklin, Rose Franklin, Danner Friend (DFr), Venetia B. Friend, John T. Fulton, Larry Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Peggy Gibbs, Thomas M. Haggerty, Milton A. Harris, Jim Holmes, Ron Houser, Mike Hughes, Gina M. Imhof, Thomas A. Imhof, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson, Paul Johnson, Charles Kennedy, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, Donna E. Kittle, Paul D. Kittle, Jan Lloyd, Howard Loftin, Jeff Madsen, Douglas T. McGinty, Barbara McMahan (BMc), Mike McMahan (MMc), Tony Menart, Al D. Miller, Ann L. Miller, Bill Milmore, Dixie Nicholson, Minnie Nonkes, Johnny T. Parks, James Pfeiffer, G. Ned Piper, Travis Powell, Robert R. Reid, Dick Reynolds, Linda Reynolds, Bill Rogers, Michael Russell, James Sanders, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Adrian Severy, Alice Stevens (ASt), Bill Summerour (BSu), Betsy Tetlow, Phil Tetlow, Mark Van Hoose, Dave Van Wormer, Carol Ware, Donald M. Ware, Don Wigginton, Erika M. Wilson.

CORRIGENDUM: Vol. 36, No. 1, page 21: Common Mergansers at Lake Purdy 30-31 Oct 1988 observed by HHF and JF, not ALM.

Greg D. Jackson, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244.



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON COLOR-MARKED BALD EAGLES (HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS)

David W. Mabie

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has banded and color marked Bald Eagle nestlings for the sixth year along the Texas Gulf Coast. This study was initiated in 1985 to determine pre- and post-fledgling survival, nest site use prior to migration, and migration routes.

The nesting Southern Bald Eagles arrive in Texas during late August and September and leave during May-July. The birds being color marked are 6–9 weeks old at banding time. The right wing is marked with a yellow patagial tag with an alphanumeric (T-01 through T-114). The left wing is marked with a blue (light) patagial tag with a yellow spot. These wing markers can usually be seen only in flight. In addition, all birds are banded with a #9 USFWS rivet band on one leg and a color rivet band on the opposite leg. The color leg bands used in previous years were plastic and retention was poor. Birds banded this year have a 3 cm green aluminum band with alphanumerics T-90 through T-114 in white. If you see or hear of an eagle with such markings, please notify the Bird Banding Laboratory, Laurel, MD 20708 and, David W. Mabie, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., 715 South Bronte, Rockport, Texas 78382, (512) 729-2315

